



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the PATENT APPLICATION of:

Cary et al.

Application No.: 10/663,156

Our File: SHT-PT002.1

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For: GLASS/METAL LAMINATE FOR
APPLIANCES

Group: 3742

Examiner: Nakarani, Dhirajlal S.

DECLARATION OF KAREN CARY UNDER 37 CFR §1.132

1. I am a Chemical and Applications Engineer at Schott Corporation, and have 4 years of experience in design and manufacturing of Appliance Applications Job Description.
2. I am an inventor of Glass/Metal Laminate For Appliances which is the subject of the above-referenced patent application. It is my understanding that my statement is being submitted in support of this patent application.
3. Prior to the Glass/Metal Laminate For Appliances, there was no feasible way to provide an appliance with an easily cleaned and maintained exposed metal finish.
4. Polished stainless steel paneled appliances have been available for many years primarily in industrial and commercial settings. In recent years, stainless steel paneled home appliances such as ovens, ranges, dishwashers, refrigerators, and

trash compactors, have become very popular and are in high demand. These appliances however, are frequently the subject of consumer complaints due to the difficulties in cleaning and maintaining their surfaces. Polished stainless steel easily shows finger prints, grease, stains and a variety of contaminants likely to be encountered in a kitchen. While imperfect surface conditions might be tolerated in commercial and industrial environments, home consumers are often more discriminating regarding appearance.

5. To address the problem of cleaning and maintaining stainless steel surfaces on appliances, manufacturers have offered a large variety of clear finishes and special cleaners. Most clear finishes however are easily removed during aggressive cleaning commonly required in a kitchen environment. Also, consumers are typically averse to purchasing special cleaners for cleaning just a few stainless steel appliances, and such cleaners will typically only keep stainless steel looking good temporarily.

6. The present Glass/Metal Laminate For Appliances solves the aforementioned shortcomings of stainless steel paneled appliances by providing a metallic finish, for example a polished stainless steel finish, which is less apt to show smudges, stains and contaminants. Also, the glass surface of the Glass/Metal Laminate can be cleaned quickly and easily with almost any household cleaning chemical.

7. To my knowledge, no Glass/Metal Laminate was available for or used in

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connection with Appliances prior to the invention of the present application.

8. All statements made herein are of my own knowledge and belief. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Karen Cary

Karen Cary,
Chemical and Applications Engineer
Schott Corporation

5/31/05

Date